

Park and Recreation Commission	Meeting Minutes
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Date: April 8, 2014, 6:00 P.M.

Place: Room 111, Town Hall, 333 Washington Street, Brookline MA

Commissioners Attending: John Bain, Nancy O' Connor, Clara Batchelor, Antonia Bellalta, Daniel Lyons, Jim Carroll

Commissioners Absent: Jean Stameris

Staff: Erin Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Director, Lisa Paradis, Recreation Director, Jessica Zarni, Parks Administrative Assistant

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION	
Chairman's Welcome Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Bain opened the meeting and asked for changes or comments on the Park and Recreation Minutes from March 18, 2014. 	N. O'Connor moved for approval of the minutes. Seconded A. Bellalta. All in favor.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No public Comment. 	
Park and Open Space Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E. Gallentine discussed Studios without Walls. E. Gallentine met with twelve artists out at the Riverway, and is enthusiastic about going to be yet another great temporary outdoor sculpture exhibit this year. The show is called Out In The Open and it runs from April 26th thru May 18th, 2014 E. Gallentine provided an update on Billy Ward Playground. The park is gorgeous and is a wonderful design. E. Gallentine discussed a potential date for a soft opening. There are elements of the project that are not completed. C. Batchelor and E. Gallentine discussed the guard rails. J. Bain and E. Gallentine discussed a potential pedestrian gate on Brook Street. This gate will swing in on one side; it will be locked in place and can be opened for maintenance vehicles. E. Gallentine discussed an upper part of the playground near an abutter there is a 6-8 inch opening between two fences that a kid could potentially fit through. E. Gallentine will work with the fence contractor to correct this. The Aspinwall fence was discussed. E. Gallentine offered to conduct a site visit on April 10th at 8:15 am to the Commissioners. E. Gallentine discussed potential signage that will be put up in the park, and discussed two possible dates for the Billy Ward Playground grand opening event. Fisher Hill Reservoir Park progress continues. E. Gallentine passed out some of Mitch Ryerson's sketches/working drawings to the Commissioners. E. Gallentine discussed his concept for furthering the log climber concept and discussed the contingency for the whole project. E. Gallentine and D. Lyons discussed the 	

	<p>cost of Mitch Ryerson's piece. A. Bellata asked if the cost included the installation and E. Gallentine responded with a yes. E. Gallentine discussed the work with Argus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The design development for the Gate House and Comfort Station are being reviewed by the Building Department and Preservation Staff, we will move into construction bid documents next and are hoping to be out to bid in May. E. Gallentine stated that the Preservation Commission voted unanimously in favor of the plans to precede with the Gate House. Everyone's on the same page with the order of priorities, it is a very pure Preservation approach. The windows and doors for the project were discussed. • Clark Playground was discussed. E. Gallentine discussed dedication benches and the solution to the water play. E. Gallentine will be splitting the cost with M.E. O'Brien. • The Emerald Necklace bike/pedestrian crossing is going in front of the Board of Selectman on Thursday for an extra work order. This is for the construction bid documents for the Washington Street Crossing. E. Gallentine discussed grant money. • E. Gallentine discussed the Muddy River Restoration Project. E. Gallentine discussed the specifics of the Army Corps. The environmental restoration piece for phase two was discussed. E. Gallentine discussed the difficulty with congress not voting and the language not being able to be added, and it needs to be directed by the President. This will be on the Governor's radar, and E. Gallentine is doing all she can to build the project in full as envisioned and permitted. • Waldstein and Eliot are both going up to the Board of Selectman on Thursday to have those contracts awarded and executed. • Brookline Ave. is in the process of updating a full survey of that site for preparation of Design Review. • E. Gallentine discussed the landscaping work being done at Putterham Library. • E. Gallentine discussed the fence restoration work at Cook Family Lot in the Old Burial Ground. • E. Gallentine is working on designs for a new play structure for 2-5 year olds at the Heath School. • E. Gallentine discussed the dedication of a tree on the River Way Path to Michael and Kitty. There is a location to plant a new tree and put an engraved stone with it as well near the Longwood T stop. E. Gallentine and the Commissioners discussed a community celebration honoring him. • The Dog Park Subcommittee needs to meet again to review some outstanding items. E. Gallentine reached 	
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	<p>out to the Friends of Griggs Park regarding an enclosed dog park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olmsted Birthday celebration will take place on April 26th from 1p.m.-3p.m., John Bain will be cutting the cake. • Brookline Bikes Beacon is Sunday May 18th, and the Eris Doornewood memorial celebration will take place right after. • E. Gallentine discussed a complaint she had received from abutters of the Amory Tennis Courts regarding the hard clay becoming airborne during high wind events. The complaint first came to her attention in November and was raised as a health concern from the abutter due to silica contents. E. Gallentine reached out to the manufacturer and received a material safety data sheet, she discussed any risk to health and human safety, E. Gallentine also reached out to surrounding communities with clay courts and passed along all the information to the Health Department who did an independent risk assessment. The Health Department concluded that there is no risk to health and human safety, but that the airborne clay was a nuisance. E. Gallentine did send a crew out to remove all the loose clay and said that she would look into costs for a permanent wind screen. E. Gallentine stated that there are members of the community that are both for and against the wind screen and thinks maybe that this should come before the commission. E. Gallentine stated that the courts are conditioned every year; this is not an issue when the courts are in use and watered down daily it just takes place during off season. N. O'Connor and E. Gallentine discussed what the wind screen would look like. D. Lyons and E. Gallentine discussed the height of the wind screen. E. Gallentine discussed what would go into tarping the courts. N. O'Connor discussed the possibility of potentially leaving the wind screen up until December 15th. The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of putting up a permanent wind screen, and allowing this to be up a little bit longer until the snow hits. The clay courts have been around as long as anyone can remember, at least over 38 years. E. Gallentine will have conversations with both individuals for and against a permanent wind screen and will report back the Park and Recreation Commission. • The Commission discussed the daffodils that were placed along the marathon route. 	
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Recreation Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Paradis passed out the spring/ summer 2014 brochure. • D. Lyons asked questions about the archery program. • L. Paradis discussed the photo contest they are having on Facebook • L. Paradis discussed her trip to DC, and the meet and greets with the legislators. • L. Paradis discussed the new custodian and the house keeper that comes in every Friday for 5 hours. It is working out quite well. • Indoor play has been going great and is coming to an end this month. There have been over 1300 visitors to the Soule Gym this season. • NETRESULTS will call Amory home for all services this year with the Waldstein project taking place. The Winsor School will be hosting a few home matches at Amory this spring. • The golf course opened for the season on Saturday, April 5th, clinics will begin the week of April 7th. The seasonal intern has returned. The employee golf benefits vote was discussed amongst the commission. • The New England Sports Concussion Forum is about a month away, and the partnership with MRPA has been great. L. Paradis discussed R. Stern's background and all his research, he will be presenting at the forum. The forum is about 50 percent full. • On April 15th L. Paradis and Neil Mcgrath a famous Neuropsychologist will be appearing on the Dan Rae WBZ radio show from 9 a.m. till 10 a.m. • L. Paradis just did an interview with Boston.com about the forum. • Business Manager, A. Manouk has submitted her resignation and her last day is April 11th. A. Manouk had 10 plus years of service with the Town. • Recreation Therapy is doing great. The Special Olympics season is in full swing with track and field and the Aquatics Team. • The Nutrition Classes have started up. • The weekly music classes continue at the Driscoll School in the preschool classes. • March started off with another successful, albeit tricky, maple sugaring season. Due to the prolonged cold this winter it has caused a very sub-average sap production season. • The maintenance building progress was discussed. • N. O'Connor and L. Paradis discussed a possible enclosed dog park in the Putterham Woods area and how that would affect the plans for the golf course. 	
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Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• J. Bain informed the commission of a group that he was approached by, and that will be coming before the committee with a new proposal to request the renaming of Cypress Field on behalf of T. Hennessey.	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• J, Bain moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by N. O'Connor. All in favor.	

Next Meeting: May 13, 2014 Location: Town Hall Rm. 111

A true record

Attest Jessica Zarni

Date: 4/8/2014